

OPEN SPACE / RECREATION

2003 Rowe Parcel (8.2 Acres --Map 23/ Lot 19)

\$101,478

The Board of Selectmen voted to purchase this parcel of land in October 2002, and provided the seller an initial deposit of \$10,000 taken from the \$25,000 granted to them by the Rockport Conservation Commission from their fund dedicated to open space and passive recreation.

This parcel met many of the identified goals and priorities associated with open space protection:

1. The lot abuts both branches of the headwaters of Saw Mill Brook, a stream that the town has pumped from 2 out of the last 3 years as an emergency water source. The town is also seriously investigating utilization of Saw Mill Brook as a more regular drinking water source. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection designated Zone A for water supply protection practically encompasses the entire lot. Protecting the wetlands alone within the watershed is not sufficient to ensure Saw Mill Brook as a viable water supply in the future. It is equally important to protect the uplands, because upland areas are where potential impacts to the water resource would typically originate.
2. The land is also critically located for access to the South Woods, including conservation land held by the Essex County Greenbelt Association. The lot includes an easement across a neighboring lot to Jerdens Lane. The tractor path that leads across these lots is well used by horseback riders, dog walkers, bicycle riders, baby strollers, birdwatchers, horse admirers, fishermen at Pascucci Pit, and many others seeking the solace of one of Rockport's few remaining rural, agricultural landscapes.
3. This lot also provides views and access to Pascucci Pit, unique views of the grazing pastures across from Lane's Farm Way, a place for horseback riders, and a location for school children to engage in recreation or natural history study. Ample parking within very close proximity is available at the Rockport School complex.

2003 Conservation Fund

\$5,000

The Rockport Conservation Commission received \$5,000 to be included in the Conservation Fund which is to be used explicitly for the purchase of open space in accordance with the Community Preservation Act.

2004 Ball Fields

\$49,885

The Rockport Little League received an appropriation of \$49,885 for field reconstruction and irrigation of the ball fields.

2004 Davis Park / Old Garden Road **\$11,954**

The Davis Park Project Committee received an appropriation of \$11,954 for creation of a park on 25,000 square feet of town owned, ocean front land.

2004 Millbrook Wells Fields **\$3,990**

The Watershed Protection Committee received an appropriation of \$3,990 for the restoration of the Millbrook Well Field.

2005 Rowe Parcel Deed Restriction **\$15,000**

This deed restriction limits the use of the property to purposes of watershed protection and “passive recreation” as defined in the statement of policy regarding MGL Chapter 1342A, Section 11 of the Self Help Program.

2005 Conservation Fund **\$20,000**

The Conservation Commission requested \$20,000 to be placed in the Conservation Fund to help keep this fund viable so it may be used to facilitate future land acquisition and protection when such opportunities arise. The benefit of the Conservation Fund for the town is that funds can be expended without going back to town meeting so that they are available to help facilitate land acquisition deals that must be acted upon quickly.

2007 Conservation Fund **\$50,000**

The Conservation Commission received another appropriation of \$50,000. The Conservation Trust was authorized under state law to allow municipal Conservation Commissions to secure funds to acquire land for conservation purposes. The uses that the Rockport Conservation Commission proposes for this fund include:

1. Purchase of land for conservation/watershed purposes.
2. Funds for downpayment/deposit and other front-end costs for purchase of land for conservation/watershed purposes.
3. Purchase of conservation easements.
4. Purchase of conservation restrictions.
5. Purchase of conservation restrictions/easements for public rights of way or trails.

2007 Matt Waddell Skate Park**\$60,000**

The Town received an appropriation of \$60,000 to restore the Skate Park's facilities. The Park was developed 17 years ago to serve the youth in Rockport and is located next to the new Youth Center and ball fields abutting Evans Field.

2007 Pingree Park Tennis Court**\$115,000**

The Town received an appropriation of \$115,000 to restore Town-owned tennis courts in Pigeon Cove so they may be safely usable.

2008 Watershed Protection**\$300,000**

The Rockport Watershed Protection Committee recently completed an analysis of all parcels within the watersheds that supply drinking water to the Town, and have identified a number of parcels that will be important to protect from development. The funds appropriated here will be made available to pursue the acquisition or protection of some of these parcels. Of the requested funds, \$30,000 is requested to be placed in the Conservation Trust to cover pre-acquisition costs such as survey work, appraisal, preparation of legal documents, etc. and \$270,000 is to be placed in the Town's Land Bank account for acquisition of the parcels.